

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed May 23, 2007. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following comments. No claim amendments have been presented herein. Claims 1-11 are pending.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 5-7, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Sakamori, U.S. Patent No. 5,443,257. In order to anticipate, the cited reference must disclose each and every claimed element. Sakamori fails to do so.

In particular, independent process claim 1 (and hence claims 6-7 depending therefrom) as well as independent apparatus claim 7 (and hence claims 9 and 11 depending therefrom) reference a first trigger that is located at a selected first location along a direction of displacement of the substrate, a second trigger that is located at a selected second location that is after said first trigger along the direction of displacement and at least a first checkpoint detector that is located at a selected third location between the first and second triggers along the direction of displacement.

In other words, the claimed invention requires that the first trigger, the second trigger and the at least one checkpoint detector be spatially arranged along a direction of displacement of a substrate (like a paper). An integrity failure condition may be recognized if a substrate is not detected by the checkpoint detector, or if the substrate is detected by the checkpoint detector but was not detected by the first trigger or is detected by the checkpoint detector after being detected by the second trigger. Sakamori does not disclose any of this.

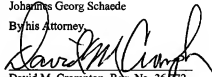
Instead, Sakamori discloses sensors 60A, 60B and 60C that are arranged perpendicularly to a sheet feeding direction (a direction of displacement) and thus none of the sensors can act as a trigger for initiating or terminating the detection process. While Figure 10 of Sakamori shows a skewed substrate having a leading edge that may encounter the sensors 60A, 60B and 60C at different times, this is not the same as the claimed invention in which the sensors are spatially arranged along a direction of displacement of the substrate. Even if the Sakamori substrate is skewed, the direction of displacement of the substrate is still in a direction that is perpendicular to the line of sensors 60A, 60B and 60C, i.e., in the direction indicated by Sakamori by the arrow labeled "CONVEY", and thus Sakamori cannot be considered as describing or suggesting sensors that are spatially arranged along a direction of displacement.

For at least these reasons, Sakamori cannot be considered as disclosing each and every claimed element. Applicant does not concede that Sakamori discloses any other claimed element not expressly addressed herein. Sakamori does not anticipate the claimed invention. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 2-4, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Sakamori, U.S. Patent No. 5,443,257. Independent claims 1 and 7, from which claims 2-4, 8 and 10, respectively, depend and further limit, have been distinguished above as being patentable over Sakamori. Dependent claims 2-4, 8 and 10 are patentable over Sakamori for at least the same reasons. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,
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By his Attorney,



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8/24/07